WOODSY OWL ON 4-WHEELING AND TRAIL BIKING

SD11
.A1
A42
no.330
1984

FOREST SERVICE • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FS-330

WOODSY OWL ON 4-WHEELING AND TRAIL BIKING

WHERE WILL YOU RIDE?

Choose well your places to ride. Before you go out, check on available trails, their condition, ownership of land, posted areas, and regulations that apply. Ask about barriers such as fences, rivers, cliffs or swamps; where rivers can be crossed and routes around swamps or cliffs. Get maps and learn how to use them. Power lines, strip mines, old railroad rights-of-way, and logging roads are possible places to ride. Forest or park rangers, sheriffs' offices, sportsmen's clubs, other trailbikers, and 4-wheelers are good sources of information.

CHECK YOUR EQUIPMENT

Make sure your machine is right for the terrain and conditions. Do you have the right tires? Is your exhaust system adequate? If riding in a forested area, do you have an approved spark arrester? Take along tools and spare parts for minor repairs. Bikers should have sparkplugs, control cables, chain links, and a tire repair kit. Four-wheelers will want sparkplugs, gas, oil, radiator water, jack, tire repair kit, hoses, belts, and cable clamps for their winches.

CHECK YOUR CLOTHING

Choose clothing for safety and comfort. Bikers should have sturdy but comfortable helmet, goggles, gloves, and boots. Other clothing should be appropriate to the weather and provide protection against brush and possible spills. Four-wheelers should dress for the weather and carry foul weather gear plus sturdy leather or leather-palmed gloves for handling the winch cable.

BE PREPARED FOR EMERGENCIES

Emergencies don't always happen to the other person. Having spare parts, tools, and adequate clothing will help. But, for safety's sake, take a first aid kit, fire extinguisher, drinking water, flashlight, matches, blankets, and flares.

WHEN YOU RIDE

Let your passing be as unnoticeable as possible. Follow all regulations. Stay on roads and trails designated for such use. Avoid cutting across switchbacks or through mountain meadows. Don't spin wheels unnecessarily. Avoid driving in streams or on steep hills with loose soil. Don't harrass livestock or wildlife. Leave natural and historical features as you find them.

HAUL IT IN—HAUL IT OUT

Littering the landscape where you ride invites land and trail closures. If you haul it in, you can haul it out. Go one step further and haul out what less thoughtful persons have left.

BE COURTEOUS AND CONSIDERATE

At times, you will share the same space with hikers, horseback riders, hunters, fishermen, and others who enjoy the outdoors. Courtesy and consideration will make the sharing more tolerable for all. Respect the land and rights of others. Be sure your machine is as quiet as you can make it. Leave fences and gates as you find them. Assist others who need help. Courtesy is catching. Pass it on.

LET SOMEONE KNOW

Riding with a companion or companions adds to the enjoyment and makes good sense from a safety standpoint. Whether riding with someone or not, always let someone else know where you are going and when you expect to return. If headed for backcountry, leave your trip plan with someone who can take action if you don't return as planned—for instance, a forest or park ranger, a sheriff's office, or a local 4-wheel drive or trail bike club.

GIVE A HOOT . . . DON'T POLLUTE

Recycle these guidelines—give them to a friend.

August 1979

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1984 O - 447-295